

Message Text

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S/S:MR ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 100616 TOSEC 110146

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 100616 ACTION AMMAN INFO JIDDA 26 APR

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 100616

EXDIS, FOR AMBS. PICKERING AND PORTER FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SA, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: JIDDA 3008

1. REFTTEL REPORTING PRINCE SAUD'S TALK WITH AMBASSADOR PORTER MAKES IT IMPERATIVE THAT YOU IMMEDIATELY GET IN TOUCH WITH HUSSEIN, TO ASCERTAIN MORE PRECISELY THAN WE HAVE SO FAR (AMMAN 2152 AND 2120) WHAT HUSSEIN SAID IN HIS LETTER TO FAHD THAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH A NEGATIVE SAUDI REACTION.

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2. WHATEVER WAS SAID IN THAT LETTER, WE HAVE BEEN OPERATING ON BASIS OF HIS ASSURANCES TO THE SECRETARY (AMMAN 2070) THAT HE CONTINUED HIS INTEREST IN PURCHASING AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WITH SAUDI FINANCING, ON CONDITION THAT IT

WAS AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM AND THAT THE FUNDING QUESTION WOULD BE SETTLED SOON. YOU SHOULD URGE HUSSEIN TO CONVEY URGENTLY TO SAG (PERHAPS THROUGH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN IF TIME PERMITS) THAT MATTER IS NOT DEAD SO FAR AS JORDANIANS ARE CONCERNED, AND THAT HE, HUSSEIN, WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND SAUDIS ON THE QUESTION.

3. IF HASSAN HAS LEFT OR IF HUSSEIN REMAINS UNWILLING TO SEND A SUITABLE MESSAGE OF HIS OWN TO THE SAUDIS, YOU SHOULD ASK HUSSEIN FOR RENEWED ASSURANCES THAT DEAL IS NOT DEAD IN JORDANIAN EYES WHICH AMBASSADOR ORTER CAN DRAW ON IN HIS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY WITH PRINCE SAUD.

4. FOR AMB. PORTER: WE WILL PROVIDE YOU FURTHER COMMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS, DEPENDING ON AMB. PICKERING'S RESPONSE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FACT THAT A TECHNICAL TEAM IS NOT IN JORDAN CARRYING OUT PREPARATORY WORK IS OF NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANCE. NO SUCH TEAM HAS IN FACT BEEN SENT TO JORDAN. MUCH OF THE PRELIMINARY WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE AND THE AUGMENTATION TEAM WE WOULD BE SENDING WOULD GO ONLY AFTER THE FUNDING QUESTION IS RESOLVED. FOR THAT MATTER, WE HAVE KEPT JORDANIAN PERSONNEL IN TRAINING IN THE U.S. THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD IN THE HOPES THAT THE FUNDING PROBLEM COULD BE RESOLVED. YOU MIGHT INFORM SAUDIS THAT SUCH PERSONNEL ARE STILL IN TRAINING HERE, AND THAT WHILE PRODUCTION OF JORDAN'S AIR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN SUSPENDED DUE TO CURRENT FUNDING PROBLEM, IT C;N BE RESUMED IN SHORT ORDER ONCE THAT PROBLEM IS RESOLVED. SISCO UNQUOTE SISCO

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